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The Direction of Human Evolution. By EDWIN GRANT CONKLIN.
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1921. Pp. ix+247.
\$2.50.

This volume contains the McNair Lectures given by Professor Conklin at the University of North Carolina in 1920 on the subject of "The Mutual Bearings of Science and Religion." Of special interest to students of the social sciences are the chapter on "The Present and Future Evolution of Man" and Part II on "Evolution and Democracy." The writer indicates his belief that the physical and intellectual evolution of man is practically at a close—a conclusion by no means scientifically demonstrated. He finds in social evolution and in man's control over nature the largest hopes for further advancement of the race.

This volume is interesting as an example of the attempted application of biology to social affairs, but it may seriously be questioned whether the author has successfully applied science to social problems, or whether he has used scientific terminology and analogy in the discussion of current social and political theories. There is a lack of specific relation between scientific biology and social problems as here discussed. Nevertheless, the effort to bridge the intolerable gap between social science and "natural" science is notable and valuable to students of social problems.

C. E. MERRIAM

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Popular Misgovernment in the United States. By ALFRED B. CRUIKSHANK. New York: Moffat, 1920. Pp. 445. \$3.00.

This volume is a general indictment of manhood suffrage. On theoretical grounds, suffrage is not a natural right, he says, but subject to considerations of social utility. Practically, he believes, universal suffrage is the chief cause of inefficiency in local, state, and national affairs. "Manhood suffrage, he concludes, which formerly spelled merely thievery and plunder, now spells destruction."

Against woman suffrage he is, if possible, even more vehement. "Female suffrage is even worse, a plain, palpable, odious and contemptible humbug and abomination, a malignant source of peril"—"dishonor and disgrace," which threatens the existence of the state. His objection to woman suffrage is that the essential governing qualities are essentially masculine.

The remedy of the author is some form of property suffrage. The substitution of human personality for property as a qualification for

voting—a result reached a generation ago after a long series of struggles he regards as a fundamental blunder in American political development. However, in view of his statement (p. 433) that “seven-eighths of our adult men are owners of or interested in property,” it is difficult to see how property or non-property suffrage can be either the cause or the cure of the ills of American or modern democracy.

A generation ago this would have been a good argument against woman's suffrage and three generations ago against manhood suffrage, but today it fails as an interpretation of social and political forces. Obviously the work was not intended as an objective, scientific study of suffrage, and if it fails as an interpretation, little value remains in it, except as a compendium of passing political attitudes, outworn in the new time.

CHARLES E. MERRIAM

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Taxation in the New State. By J. A. HOBSON. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Howe, 1920. Pp. viii+258. \$1.75.

John Atkinson Hobson is an English economist of international distinction and with an international mind, but in this book on taxation he has the problems of England in view.

Beginning before the war, the growing need of larger revenue, in order to meet the new demands upon the modern state, brought the problem of taxation into a place of increased prominence in the politics of every country.

Mr. Hobson aims to give a constructive program for the reform of taxation without injurious effects on industry and business in general. Mr. Hobson takes a sane view and shows that the whole problem of modern taxation revolves about the one question of “ability to pay.” According to his theory a sound tax must conform to two negative conditions, which are vitally connected with one another. (1) It must not remove or impair any instrument of, or incentive to, essential or useful processes of production. (2) It must not remove or impair any essential or useful element of consumption.

In other words, the really taxable elements of income, those which have a true “ability to bear” taxation, must be those that are unnecessary to maintain socially serviceable processes of production or consumption. The one condition relates to the origins or sources of income, the other to the uses to which income is applied.

The first part of the volume deals with the principles and policies of reformed taxation. The second part treats of the financial emergency